

Urban Watershed Management Planning: Creating future successes.

Lehna Malmkvist, Capital Regional District*

Rob Miller, Downstream Environmental Consulting

Craig Mount, Capital Regional District

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As urban watershed restoration has become an increasingly important priority in many municipalities and regions, watershed management has been identified as a key solution. However, creating a useful management plan is a difficult process. Where watershed boundaries cross multiple municipalities watershed management becomes more complicated. A successful planning process must be flexible enough to accommodate various types of land-use and ecological conditions. The resulting plan must address social, economic and ecological attributes within the watershed. The Capital Regional District (CRD) developed a collaborative framework for building urban watershed management plans. It was first used in 1998 to create a plan for managing the Craigflower Creek watershed near Victoria, British Columbia. In 2003, the framework was used again by the CRD to create a management plan for the Bowker Creek watershed. This presentation uses these examples as case studies to examine the changes to the process and how these changes have affected the success of implementing watershed management plans. A template outline is provided for use in developing urban watershed management plans, as well as ideas for overcoming difficulties where multiple regulatory agencies are responsible for managing different areas of a watershed.